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of Engineers

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Subject: Revisions to EM 385-1-1, Safety and Health Requirements Manual

Applicability: INFORMATION

1. REFERENCE: EM 385-1-1, Safety and Health Requirements Manual, 3 September 1996.
2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Construction Bulletin (CB) is to bring to your attention the major changes that were incorporated in the referenced manual and to ensure compliance with the updated provisions.
3. GENERAL.
 - a. The provisions of EM 385-1-1 implement safety, health standards and requirements contained in:
 - (1) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations (29 CFR 1910, 29 CFR 1926, and 29 CFR 1960).
 - (2) Army regulations (AR 40-5, AR 385-10, AR 385-11, and AR 385-40).
 - (3) Executive Order 12196 and Department of Defense Instructions (DODI)-6055.1.
 - b. EM 385-1-1 applies to construction contract work under the provisions of Federal Acquisition Regulation Clause 52.236-13, Accident Prevention, and service and supply contracting actions including hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste activities.
 - c. Contracts which reference the previous manual, will continue to apply the provisions of the 1 October 1992 edition until contract completion.

d. The changes and additions to EM 385-1-1 have been underlined in the manual in order to easily identify the most recent revisions. The revised manual now has a red cover (a change from the previous yellow cover).

4. MAJOR REVISIONS TO EM 385-1-1.

a. The metric unit of measurement was used as the primary unit and inch-pound was kept as the secondary measure.

b. Adopted OSHA's bloodborne pathogen standard which establishes certain requirements that apply to employees designated as responsible for rendering first aid or medical assistance (paragraph 03.A.06).

c. Adopted OSHA's personal protective equipment (PPE) standard which requires employers, based on hazard assessments, to select PPE that properly fits and protects each affected employee from hazards (05.A.01). Employers shall also train affected employees on the proper use of PPE and issue a written certification to document that such training took place (05.A.03).

d. Adopted OSHA's fall protection standard which establishes new requirements for personal fall protection devices, safety nets, and body belt/harnesses (05.F).

e. Added requirements for asbestos and lead abatement activities - Requires the development and implementation of a written plan (to be accepted by the Government) detailing compliance with OSHA and EPA asbestos or lead abatement requirements (06.B.05).

f. Completely revised the "Ionizing Radiation" standards to meet Army requirements (06.E).

g. Updated exposure standards for non-ionizing radiation and magnetic and electric fields - exposure to lasers, airborne upper sonic and ultrasonic acoustic, light and near-infrared, radio frequency (30 kHz to 300 GHz), sub-radio frequency (30 kHz and below), magnetic and/or electric field; microwave, and ultraviolet radiation (06.F).

h. Revised confined space requirements (including training) to match OSHA's final standard. Requirements in '92 manual were based on OSHA's proposed standard. The final standard is less restrictive (06.I).

i. Added the section on cumulative trauma prevention. Requires an evaluation, by the employer, of repetitive trauma hazards to ensure the activities are designed to match the capabilities of the workers. This section requires also the employer to incorporate work activities that stress the body's capabilities in the appropriate activity hazard analysis (06.K).

j. Adopted NFPA's requirements for containers and portable tanks for flammable and combustible liquids (09.B).

k. Clarified requirements for GFCI protection (11.C.05).

l. Updated requirements for crane performance tests - operational performance tests (without load) and load performance tests (with load) (16.C.13).

m. Updated requirements for anti-two block devices (used with lattice boom cranes to stop the load hoisting function before the load block or load contacts the boom tip) (16.D).

n. Clarified requirements for inspection, test, maintenance, and repair of vehicles (18.A).

o. Clarified requirements for inspection and certification of floating plants (19.A).

p. Added requirements for identification and protection of floating pipelines (19.D.03).

q. Adopted OSHA's scaffold standard, standard guardrails and handrails, and personal fall protection devices and safety nets (21.B and 21.C)

r. Clarified requirements for HTRW site safety and health plans (SSHP) (28.B).

s. Clarified several diving requirements (Section 30 - Contract Diving Operations).

t. Added appendix A on minimum requirements for accident prevention plan.

u. Added appendix B on emergency operations.

v. Clarified requirements for examination and qualification of crane operators (Appendix G).

w. Provided detailed guidance on crane testing requirements (Appendix H).

x. Expanded the manual index for easier search by subject.

5. Quality Assurance (QA) personnel must verify the contract requirements of newly awarded contracts in order to determine whether the newly revised EM 385-1-1 (1996) or the previous edition (1992) applies. If the newly revised edition applies, QA personnel must become familiar with all the revisions and ensure contractor's compliance. If you have not received a copy of the revised manual, you should contact your local printing/publication officer. You may also download the contents of EM 385-1-1 from HQUSACE Safety Office home page:

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To view this htm file, you need the Acrobat Reader that is also available on this home page. (Caution: this document is very large and you will need almost 4 MB to download. The .pdf document is 358 pages long.)

6. This CB was coordinated with the following HQUSACE organizations: Office of the Chief Counsel (CECC-C); Operations, Construction and Readiness Division (CECW-O); the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (CEPR-ZA); and Safety and Occupational Health Office (CESO-ZA).


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